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EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/692,212
Filing Date: October 23, 2003
Appellant(s): LIN ET AL.

MAILED

FEB 07 2007

Technology Center 2100

Himanshu S. Amin
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed October 18, 2006 appealing from the Office
action mailed May 19, 2006.

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(1) Real Party in Interest

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) Related Appeals and Interferences

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

(3) Status of Claims

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) Status of Amendments After Final

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6) Grounds of Rejection to be reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

(7) Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8) Evidence Relied Upon

6,065,043	DOMENIKOS	5-2000
6,096,096	MURPHY	8-2000
2002/0083148 A1	SHAW	6-2002

(9) Grounds of Rejection

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-16, 18-22, 24-25, 36-37 and 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domensikos et al. (US 6,065,043) of record in view of Murphy et al. (US 6,096,096).

Regarding claim 1, Domenikos discloses remote file system, comprising:

- One or more surrogate providers comprising at least a first surrogate provider that is a client side caching (CSC) component that selectively caches at least a subset of data from at least one online server and supports connection state transition at the directory level on a logical namespace (col.3, line 55 to col.4, line 4; col.5, line 53 to col.6, line 32, Domensikos discloses the client side cache corresponding to “surrogate provider” for caching portions of the file system); and
- one or more client computers that receive and store the subset of data to their respective local databases (col.7, lines 62-65, Domensikos).

Domenikos, however, does not explicitly disclose the offline use by the respective client computers and the offline use to those shares of the logical namespace that are involved in a period of disconnected. Murphy discloses a system for emulating on-line accessing of information in an offline environment including serving content for caching in a client side device. The offline client is configured to retrieve generated web content “web site information” over the network and to store the retrieved web content in the cache storage device (abstract; summary; col.5, line 21 to col.6, line 13, Murphy) and the offline use is limited to multiple

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logical paths through common files' location or a namespace for the common files (abstract; summary; col.5, line 21 to col.6, line 13 and col.9, line 55 to col.10, line 12, Murphy). Therefore, the offline web content for end-user reads on the offline use by the respective client computers to facilitate a seamless operation of data retrieval across connectivity states for a user and the offline use to those shares of the logical namespace that are involved in a period of disconnected. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Domensikos to include the claimed feature as taught by Murphy because it would provide a specialized system that efficiently convey information to the end-user even if the end-user's computer is located very distantly from the system's information provider (see col.2, lines 13-29, Murphy).

Regarding claim 3, Domenikos/Murphy combination discloses the system comprising an MUP that supports the one or more surrogate providers at the directory level to handle incoming requests from a user (abstract; summary and col.13, lines 1-12, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 4, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the system comprising a second surrogate provider that translates a logical path into a physical path (col.11, line 53 to col.12, line 4, Domensikos)

Regarding claim 5, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses that the second surrogate provider is a DFS component that points to at least one physical share or at least one physical server (summary and col.9, lines 49-60, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 7, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses that data comprises file access parameters comprising at least one of object access rights and share access rights, the files

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access parameters corresponding to a cached tile object (col.10, lines 4-15 and col. 12, lines 51-67, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 8, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the CSC component caches the logical namespace of a file request such that when accessed during an offline state, the file is presented to a user as if it resides at a remote server location (col.18, lines 52-67, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 9, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses that the CSC component maintains connection based data structures in logical namespace, the data structures comprising a server connection structure, a share mapping structure, and a per-user share mapping structure to facilitate handling at least one of create, read, and write requests (col.13, lines 19-25 and col.18, lines 52-67, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 10, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses that the CSC component creates file based data structures and shares the data structures with one or more redirectors to facilitate handling at least one of create, read, and write requests, the one or more redirectors operatively connected to one or more network providers (col.17, lines 30-43; col.18, lines 52-67 and col.19, lines 18-35, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 11, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the system, wherein the first surrogate provider comprises a pre-process handler and a post-process handler which facilitates responding to any one of create, read, and write requests (col.18, lines 52-67 and col.19, lines 18-35, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 12, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the system, wherein the surrogate providers determine who owns a path request whereby the CSC components makes an

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initial determination before allowing the DFS component to examine the path to identify any DFS links (col. 15, line 60 to col.16, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 13, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the system, wherein the CSC component operates cooperatively with the DFS component to determine whether DFS links are present in the path while in an online connection state (summary; col.13, lines 1-12 and col.15, line 60 to col.16, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 14, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the system, wherein the CSC component determines whether to cache an object tile associated with the path (col.15, line 60 to col.16, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 15, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the system further comprising a CSC agent pings the server to determine whether the server is online (col. 12, lines 51-67 and col.15, line 60 to col.16, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 16, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the system, wherein the CSC component tracking substantially all DFS links included in the logical namespace persistently to transition a connection state at a proper logical directory which facilitates minimizing a scope of offlineness to a physical share (col.15, line 60 to col.16, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 18, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses that the client computer accesses remote tiles offline by retrieving them from their respective local databases if file access parameters are satisfied (col. 12, lines 51-67 and col.15, line 60 to col.16, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 19, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses that the first surrogate provider keeps track of DFS links corresponding to every object, wherein the DFS links are

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physical shares (col.11, line 53 to col. 12, line 67 and col.15, line 60 to col.16, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 20, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses that the first surrogate provider determines whether the request against a specific object should be carried out offline or not, before returning to MUP, by looking at a corresponding physical share connection state (col.11, line 53 to col.12, line 4 and col.15, line 60 to col.16, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claims 21 and 36, Domensikos discloses a method that facilitates maintaining access to remote files during any period of disconnect from a remote location, comprising:

- providing one or more client computers, each client computer comprising a local data store (client 12, Fig.4; col.7, lines 62-65 and col.13, lines 59-65, Domensikos discloses a local file system 22 on client computer 12); and
- selectively caching one or more file objects and a logical namespace associated with the one or more file objects from at least one online server (col.3, line 55 to col.4, line 4; col.5, line 53 to col.6, line 32, Domensikos discloses the client side cache for caching portions of the file system reads on “caching one of more file objects”).

Domensikos, however, does not explicitly disclose the offline use by the respective client computers and the offline use to those shares of the logical namespace that are involved in a period of disconnected. Murphy discloses a system for emulating on-line accessing of information in an offline environment including serving content for caching in a client side device. The offline client is configured to retrieve generated web content “web site information” over the network and to store the retrieved web content in the cache storage device (abstract;

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summary; col.5, line 21 to col.6, line 13, Murphy) and the offline use is limited to multiple logical paths through common files' location or a namespace for the common files (abstract; summary; col.5, line 21 to col.6, line 13 and col.9, line 55 to col.10, line 12, Murphy). Therefore, the offline web content for end-user reads on the offline use by the respective client computers to facilitate a seamless operation of data retrieval across connectivity states for a user and the offline use to those shares of the logical namespace that are involved in a period of disconnected. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Domensikos to include the claimed feature as taught by Murphy because it would provide a specialized system that efficiently convey information to the end-user even if the end-user's computer is located very distantly from the system's information provider (see col.2, lines 13-29, Murphy).

Regarding claims 22 and 37, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the method further comprising maintaining access to the one or more files cached while offline (col.5, line 21 to col.6, line 13 and col.9, line 55 to col.10, line 12, Murphy).

Regarding claim 24, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses that, when connected to the remote Location, retrieving a file object from the local data store to mitigate bandwidth usage with respect to accessing the remote location despite being connected to the remote location (summary; col.12, lines 51-67 and col.15, line 60 to col.16, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 25, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the method further comprising: mapping a logical namespace to a physical namespace to facilitate keeping track of cached files and enumerating directories as files are modified or deleted locally at the client or at the remote location; and tracking connection states and version of physical shares that

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correspond to at least one object along a path that facilitates updating a tree connect structure in a continuous manner (col.11, line 53 to col.12, line 4 and col.15, line 60 to col.15, line 13, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 39, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the system that, when connected to the remote location, means for retrieving a file object from the local data store to mitigate bandwidth usage with respect to accessing the remote location despite being connected to the remote location (Fig.4 and corresponding text, Domensikos).

Regarding claim 40, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses the system further comprising: means for mapping a logical namespace to a physical namespace to facilitate keeping track of cached files and enumerating directories as files are modified or deleted locally at the client or at the remote location, and means for tracking connection states and version of physical shares that correspond to at least one object along a path that facilitates updating a tree connect structure in a continuous manner (col.11, line 53 to col.12, line 4; col.15, line 60 to col.15, line 13 and col.19, lines 54-61, Domensikos).

Claims 6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domensikos et al. (US 6,065,043) in view of Murphy et al. (US 6,096,096) new cited and further in view of Shaw et al. (US Pub. 2002/0083148 A1) of record.

Regarding claim 6, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses all of the claimed limitation as discussed above, except automatic caching and manual caching based at least in part upon user preferences. Shaw discloses a system and method for sender initiated caching of personalized content including the step of substantial caching based at least in part on the user preference (abstract; [0004] and [0019], Shaw). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary

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skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination system of Domensikos and Murphy to include the claimed feature as taught by Shaw. The motivation of doing so would enhance the system's speed ([0002], Shaw).

Regarding claim 17, Domensikos/Murphy combination discloses all of the claimed limitation as discussed above, except substantial all CSC agents that it is online to mitigate latency. Shaw discloses a system and method for sender initiated caching of personalized content including the step of substantial caching based at least in part on the user preference (abstract; [0004] and [0019], Shaw). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination system of Domensikos and Murphy to include the claimed feature as taught by Shaw. The motivation of doing so would enhance the system's speed ([0002], Shaw).

(10) Response to Argument

I. Examiner's response to Appellant's argument A: the rejected claims 1, 3-5, 7-16, 18-22, 24, 25, 36, 37, 39 and 40 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domensikos et al. (US 6,065,043) in view of Murphy et al. (US 6,096,096).

Applicant argues that Murphy does not disclose "the offline use is limited to shares of the logical namespace that are experiencing a period of disconnect." (Appellant's 10/18/06 Brief, page 5) is illogical and completely contradict the most basic teaching of Murphy. Murphy clearly teaches in numerous places that his invention is directed to "offline web site delivery mechanism" (col.4, line 26). Also see the first sentence of the abstract. Furthermore, Murphy discloses in the abstract "information initially configured to be displayed via an on-line connection is stored onto a plurality of portable storage media. The portable storage media is

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adapted to be used by an end-user in an off-line environment. Moreover, the information is arranged on the plurality of storage media such that off-line accessing of the information emulates on-line accessing of the information.” Additionally, Murphy discloses in column 4, line 29 that portable storage media resides in the client computer. Thus, there is absolutely no difference between Murphy and the claimed limitation “receive and store the subset of data to their respective local databases for offline use by the respective client computers to facilitate a seamless operation of data retrieval across connectivity states for a user, the offline use is limited to shares of the logical namespace that are experiencing a period of disconnect.”

Domenikos clearly discloses remote file system, comprising One or more surrogate providers comprising at least a first surrogate provider that is a client side caching (CSC) component that selectively caches at least a subset of data from at least one online server and supports connection state transition at the directory level on a logical namespace (col.3, line 55 to col.4, line 4; col.5, line 53 to col.6, line 32, Domensikos discloses the client side cache corresponding to “surrogate provider” for caching portions of the file system); and one or more client computers that receive and store the subset of data to their respective local databases (col.7, lines 62-65, Domensikos).

The examiner respectfully submits that the combination of Domenikos and Murphy discloses the invention as claimed.

II. Examiner’s response to Appellant’s argument B: the rejected claims 6 and 17 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domensikos et al. (US 6,065,043) in view of Murphy et al. (US 6,096,096) and further in view of Shaw et al. (US 2002/0083148).

Appellant relies on his earlier argument that the combination of Domensiks and Murphy would not have been obvious in challenging this further combination in view of Shaw. Hence, because the Appellant does not further distinguish the claimed invention over the Domensiks/Murphy/Shaw combination, the examiner reiterates her response provided above and incorporates it by reference.

(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Hanh Thai

January 25, 2007

Conferees:

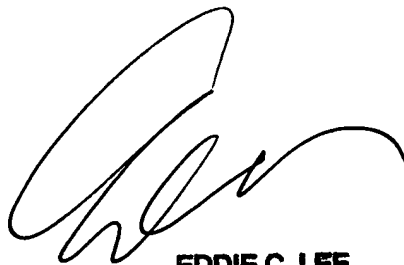
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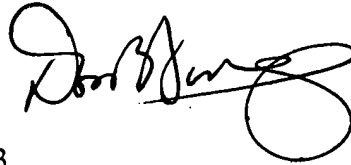
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Don Wong

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Wong', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Supervisory patent Examiner, AU 2163

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